

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 05428 270010Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 CU-04 SIL-01 LAB-06 AGR-20

SWF-02 EB-11 IO-14 SY-04 USSS-00 NIC-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /181 W

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P 262244Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2453

INFO DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5428

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MX

SUBJECT: CABANAS ISSUES THIRD COMMUNIQUE WITH "OUTRAGEOUS" DEMANDS;
GOM MOUNTS MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST HIM

REFS: MEXICO 5282 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: GUERRILLA GROUP HEADED BY LUCIO CABANAS BARRIENTOS HAS MADE PUBLIC ITS THIRD COMMUNIQUE DEMANDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, 50 MILLION PESOS FOR RELEASE OF PRI GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE IN GUERRERO, SEN. RUBEN FIGUEROA. ALTHOUGH GOM HAS NOT YET MADE ANY PUBLIC REPLY, INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT GOM IS MOUNTING INTENSIVE MILITARY OPERATION DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE CABANAS AND IS APPARENTLY ACCEPTING RISK THAT FIGUEROA WILL BE KILLED. END SUMMARY.

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2. THIRD COMMUNIQUE IN SERIES ISSUED BY GUERRERO STATE GUERRILLA LEADER LUCIO CABANAS BARRIENTOS SINCE MAY 30 ABDUCTION OF SEN. RUBEN FIGUEROA WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 05428 270010Z

MEXICO CITY PAPERS AFTERNOON OF JUNE 25. IT BEARS DATE

OF JUNE 19.

3. PREAMBLE CONTAINS STATEMENT THAT COMMUNIQUE IS BEING ISSUED EVEN THOUGH GOM HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH DEMANDS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM CABANAS'S PART OF GUERRERO STATE AND ACCUSES SECDEF AND STATE GOVERNOR OF LYING WITH REGARD TO CONFINEMENT OF TROOPS AND STATE POLICE TO BARRACKS IN SAME AREA. IT ALSO INDICATES CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF ON-GOING GOM SECURITY OPERATIONS IN SEVERAL SPECIFIC LOCALITIES AND ALLEGES THAT SOLDIERS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES ARE BEING EMPLOYED.

4. HEART OF COMMUNIQUE IS SERIES OF DEMANDS DIRECTED TO FEDERAL GOVT, AS FOLLOWS: (A) RELEASE IN SIERRA OF GUERRERO OF "THE POLITICAL PRISONERS", WHOSE NAMES ARE TO BE SPECIFIED LATER; (B) DELIVERY OF 50 MILLION PESOS (US DOLLARS FOUR MILLION); (C) DELIVERY OF 100 M-1 RIFLES WITH 60 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION FOR EACH AND OF 50 BROWNING 9-MM. PISTOLS WITH TWO CLIPS EACH; (D) BROADCAST THROUGHOUT MEXICO OF A TAPE RECORDING (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED) WITH SPEECHES AND REVOLUTIONARY SONGS BY CABANAS GROUP; AND (E) RESOLUTION OF VARIOUS GRIEVANCES, INCLUDING THOSE OF STUDENTS AT RURAL TEACHERS' COLLEGES AND OF STRIKING WORKERS AT A CLOTHING FACTORY IN MONNTEARREY, AND SETTLEMENT OF LAND-TENURE, LOGGING AND COFFEE-GROWING ISSUES.

5. FURTHER SERIES OF DEMANDS DIRECTED TO GUERRERO STATE GOVT: (A) RELEASE OF ALL PRISONERS IN STATE, INCLUDING COMMON CRIMINALS, ONCE FEDERAL GOVT HAS RELEASED POLITICAL PRISONERS; (B) FORGIVENESS OF CAMPESINOS' DEBTS TO A "REGIONAL CACIQUE" IN EL ESPINALILLO, GRO.; (C) REMOVAL OF THE JUDICIAL POLICE COMMANDER IN ACAPULCO; (D) PUBLICATION OF NAMES AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF JUDICIAL POLICE PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN MARCH 1974 INCIDENT ELSEWHERE IN STATE, WHO ALLEGEDLY BEAT VARIOUS CITIZENS AND RAPED A GIRL.

6. CONCLUDING PASSAGE OF COMMUNIQUE SAYS FIGUEROA'S LIFE WILL DEPEND ON COMPLIANCE WITH THESE DEMANDS(BUT SETS NO DEADLINE). FINALLY, DOCUMENT DEMANDS THAT IT AND TWO PREVIOUS COMMUNIQUE (MEXICO 4508 AND 4967) BE READ OVER
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 05428 270010Z

ALL RADIO STATIONS AND NATIONAL TELEVISION CHANNELS. SPECIFIC SCHEDULE CALLS FOR BROADCASTS AT 2000 HOURS JUNE 25 (RADIO) AND FROM 2200 TO 2400 HOURS SAME DATE (TELEVISION) AND AGAIN AT 0800 HOURS JUNE 26 (RADIO) AND AT 1900 HOURS JUNE 26 (TELEVISION). END UNCLASSIFIED

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7. COMMENT: TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, GOM HAS NOT YET TAKEN PUBLIC POSITION ON COMMUNIQUE. CHARACTERIZATION OF CABANAS DEMANDS AS "OUTRAGEOUS" COMES FROM MORNING PRESS JUNE 26. INFLUENTIAL EXCELSIOR EDITORIALIZES THAT DEMANDS ARE INTOLERABLY EXCESSIVE, PERHAPS DESIGNED TO BRING REFUSAL AND THUS PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR KILLING OF FIGUEROA. EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT GOM CAN ONLY REFUSE DEMANDS AND APPLY THE LAW, BUT IN SUCH FASHION THAT "NOT ONE INNOCENT LIFE IS LOST."

8. INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, BEING REPORTED OTHER CHANNELS, INDICATES THAT GOM HAS NO INTENTION OF MEETING THESE DEMANDS AND HAS INSTEAD LAUNCHED INTENSIFIED MILITARY OPERATIONS IN 27TH AND 35TH MILITARY ZONES, BOTH IN GUERRERO. THIS DECISION CLEARLY ENTAILS RISK THAT FIGUEROA WILL BE KILLED(IF IN FACT HE IS STILL ALIVE).
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